the course of these exercises serves as a vital input for upgrading the skills and capabilities of our Armed Forces. It would, however, not be in the national interest to divulge specific details of the exercises planned to be carried out by the Armed Forces of the two countries jointly.

(c) Adequate measures are taken for safeguarding our national interests while planning and executing such exercises.

Recruitment in Army from Uttaranchal

†291. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons found eligible for recruitment in army in Uttaranchal;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of persons recruited from this region has decreased during recent years; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to increase the number of persons for recruitment in Indian army from this region?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI .GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The eligibility of youth for recruitment in the Army is determined on the basis of Recruitable male Population of a State which is 10% of the total male population, irrespective of their caste, class, region, community and domicile, provided they meet laid down criteria of physical, educational and medical standards. As per 2001 census, 4,31,640 youth were considered eligible for recruitment in the Army from Uttaranchal.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Rectification of snags in T-90 Tanks

292. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Army Chief during his recent visit to Russia had taken up the matter of rectification of technical snags found in T-90 Tanks currently in use in India;

†Original notice of the question wee received in Hindi.